



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Francis Marion and
Sumter National Forests

4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
803-561-4000

File Code: 1950

Date: July 15, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

On behalf of the Sumter, Chattahoochee and Nantahala national forests, I am asking for your comments on the attached environmental assessment (EA) entitled Managing Recreation Uses on the Upper Segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River. This EA includes new alternatives and new analysis on both visitor-use capacity and the river's outstandingly remarkable values added since reinitiating the National Environment Policy Act process on December 9, 2009.

After careful consideration of the analysis documented in the attached EA, the three forest supervisors have selected Alternative 12 as our preferred alternative. This alternative would:

- Protect the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River's (WSR) outstandingly remarkable values;
- Set capacities to maintain existing experiences and opportunities for solitude;
- Allow whitewater boaters, trout anglers and other forest visitors to co-exist on the upper segment of the Chattooga WSR with minimal conflict;
- Enhance the visitors' experience by improving campsites and trails; and
- Protect large woody debris.

Please review our preferred alternative and our analysis and provide us with feedback or new information we need to consider. Depending on the information we receive, we could modify the EA, change some elements of our preferred alternative, or choose a different alternative altogether when we make our final decision later this year. All related material and comments previously submitted by the public associated with the 2009 withdrawn decisions have been considered in the EA and continue to be part of the project record.

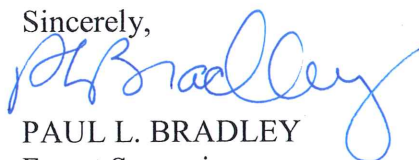
Please e-mail your comments no later than August 15, 2011 to:
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us. Hard copy letters must be postmarked by August 15 and mailed to:

Comments on the Upper Chattooga EA
c/o USDA Forest Service Supervisor's Office
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212-3530

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who commented, will become part of the public record. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the USDA Forest Service with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

For more information, please visit <http://fs.usda.gov/scnfs>.

Sincerely,



PAUL L. BRADLEY
Forest Supervisor

